

About Plays and Players

By BIDE DUDLEY

GILBERT MILLER, now a theatrical producer in London, has come out in the London Daily Express for straighter and stronger dramatic criticism. He says there is such a thing as "excessive consideration" on the part of the reviewer, and he declares it does injury to a noble art.

"Stern and unbending criticism is educational," says Mr. Miller, in his interview. "Without it art must wither and perish. No Government can be really good that lacks opposition. Reconstruction is the watchword of the day and the theatre needs it as much as any other institution. The critic is a potent instrument in the cause of reconstruction. Do not let him stint his praise where praise is due. Do not let him modify his censure where it is deserved. Above all, do not let him damn our plays with faint praise. Most managers would, I imagine, prefer to know the cold truth and at once, and so put an end to uncertainty."

The interview is to the point, all right, but where does Mr. Miller get the idea that the real critic does not tell the candid truth, as they can see it, in their writings? And why, after all, isn't the public the one great critic of the drama?

HER FIRST MASH NOTE.

Miriam Battista, the latest girl in the middle section of the "Florodora" sextet, at the Century, received a mash note yesterday. It was in a scrawly hand, and it read:

"Dear Miriam, I was to 'Flour-dora' with my father and my mother and I saw you kiss that little boy dancing with you. I wish I was in the sextet. Billy M."

Little Miss Battista wishes it distinctly understood that the occasion was indulged in during the performance and is merely of the stage sort, nothing more.

JIMMIE WAS IMPRESSED.

Oiga Petrova, while acting at the Orpheum Theatre, Duluth, recently, was paid a real compliment. On the wall back stage hangs a clock. While Miss Petrova was going through a scene in her playlet Jimmie Mulhara, the theatre electrician sat under the clock looking on. When the act was over Jimmie shifted his chair and said:

"Miss Petrova, I've been in this house three years and just now was the first time I ever heard that clock tick."

THE NEW G. V. "FOLLIES."

The cast of the new "Greenwich Village Follies" will be selected in a week or ten days and rehearsals will begin in about three weeks. The show will open at the Greenwich Village Theatre about the middle of May.

JUST LIKE AN ENGLISHMAN.

Wanda Howard, an American actress, on touring in China, Japan and India. She heads a company of players from this country, who are presenting American plays. Julian Eltinge, according to a late letter, is also in the Orient.

The residents, according to Miss Howard, have a queer idea of the United States and its geographical boundaries. In Shanghai she met an Englishman. He called on her after the performance and presented his card. He was a writer on a Shanghai newspaper printed in the English language.

"Do you know a Mr. Blank in New York?" he inquired. "He went over a couple of years ago, and has done very well, I hear."

Miss Howard explained there was a population of more than 6,000,000 in New York, and she didn't know him.

"How strange," he commented. "Not at all," the actress insisted. "I can't be expected to know 6,000,000 people."

"No," the Englishman replied with a smirk, "you should not be expected to, should you? But I only wanted you to know one."

THE CASH WILL FLY.

Hugo Blumenthal will take charge of the Criterion Theatre on Sunday, April 18, and the work of remodeling the house will begin the next day. Mr. Blumenthal says he will spend \$50,000 on the work in exactly five days. Will John McDevitt, the Wilkes-Barre millionaire for a day, please write?

GOSSIP.

Georgia Empey, an artistic model, has joined the "Look Who's Here" company.

Reports from London say Edith Day has made a hit in "Irene" over there.

Gerald P. Bacon is still seeking a girl for the title role in the musical comedy, "Princess Virtue."

Oliver Morosco is planning to produce soon a new comedy entitled "Wait Till We're Married."

W. Ziegfeld Jr. announces that he will select an entirely new chorus for the next edition of "The Follies."

Attention, Limerickers!

There is a faker at large whose chief object in life appears to be to defeat us in our race for the Presidency. Word has reached us from P. Solomon Buster, President of the Pleasant Hour League, formerly the Bungalow Club, that a man, representing himself to be Dudley, appeared at a meeting of this organization Thursday night and made an address in which he said he didn't care whether those present voted for him or not. He made the league so mad that a resolution was passed later condemning our campaign. We therefore wish to state that we have a large nose and a lion. Voters are requested to examine men who address them, claiming they are Dudley, for these salient physical points; also, we might state that when we smile we display two very nice dimples. We did not address the Pleasant Hour League, and if the members will come into our fold we will permit each to send us a card and a new tooth brush. We want their votes.

Now, a word to those limerickers who think our Campaign Manager, Jefferson, is a faker. Well, he is a faker! Mr. Nutt was born in Trollope, Kan., of very respectable parents, nevertheless. The education he has acquired while selling hockey pucks and candy in Kansas City for a firm headed by a dentist. His wife is of the famous Bone family of Ivory County, Mo. He has no personal ambitions in this matter other than to get all the money he can. When you see him in the Dudley-for-President parade you will realize what a beautiful character he is. Mr. Nutt will personally pin the badges on the ladies and will kiss all the babies offered.

Now, to-day's trick limerick, dear friends, is apt to muddle you all up. The missing word is one that frequently sets neighbors crazy, and also brings about scandal in church choirs. If by any chance you hit on it, don't wait—send it in, together with the usual check for \$200 and a wrist watch and the rest will be easy. Here's the confusing rhyme:

There was an old lady named Bugs,
Who'd often say pretty mean things,
Raid she, of a neighbor
Named Mrs. Heck Tabor:
"Who sounds like a crow when she coughs?"

Everly Mitchell's classes of children will give a pantomime and dance interpretation of the seasons at the Terrace Garden Dance Palace Monday night. It was written by Catherine Lee Gable.

Forty members of the graduating class of Bordenstown Military Academy attended last night's performance of "Shaviness" at the Kalkreuth Theatre to see their former instructor, Mitchell Harris, in the aviator role.

Frank Morgan and Clarence Derwent will act in a playlet called "Laughing Harry" at the Drew Post performance, New Amsterdam Theatre, to-morrow night.

The Hippodrome will be fifteen years old next Monday and on Thursday "Happy Days," the show there, will pass its 400th performance.

An aeroplane romance is disclosed in the announcement that Florence Johns, now playing in "Abraham Lincoln" at the Cort Theatre, was married on March 18 to M. Coleman Jackson of this city, formerly a member of Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker's 94th Aero Squadron. She and Mr. Jackson journeyed to White Plains and were there married by the Rev. John Simpson of Grace Church.

John Stokes, Constance Beaumar, Mark Smith, Barlowe Boardman and Gertrude Wexler have been added to the cast of "Kiss Her Again," which Len Herwick will present out of town shortly.

A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.

The Rev. Dr. Miran Snooks of Wellsville is quite a humorist. He told of a modiste recently and an exulting himself, looked at his clothes and remarked: "Well, I'm gaining ground in this community."

FOOLISHMENT.

There was a young woman named Phister,
Whose mother and father once visited her;
They found her next day
In the barn, cutting hay.
And, great but it knocked them a hicster.

FROM THE CHESTNUT TREE.

"When Judkins learned he was a father he faints."
"Yes, but the nurse brought him two."

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

1. How many nail holes has a common brass shoe?
2. How many links are to a chain of sixty-six feet?
3. What amendment of the constitution provides for the direct election of Senators?
4. Who invented celluloid?
5. In what State can boys be married at the age of fourteen without their parents' consent?
6. By what company are most ships insured?
7. What is the age of Georges Carpentier?
8. What military title did Robert recover during the Spanish-American war?
9. Who wrote "The Hallel of the Universe"?
10. How many o'clocks has Ireland?
11. What kind of food is quarantined to give it this appearance green?
12. How many points constitute a game of bridge, whist?

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S QUESTIONS.

1. Iowa. 2. Yucatan. 3. Switzerland. 4. John D. Rockefeller. 5. Italy. 6. Darius. 7. Achilles. 8. New York. 9. Carnegie. 10. Fort Dearborn. 11. Haddock. 12. Thirty feet.

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